AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-13 as follows and add new claims 46 and 47.

1. (Currently Amended) A meter strip dispensing assembly for dispensing a test strip, comprised of:

a housing;

a container for holding test strips, the container positioned within the housing;

a moveable body moveable ~~to~~ between: (i) a first position that engages a test strip and displaces ~~it~~ the test strip partially out of the container through a container opening; and (ii) a second position that engages the test strip and displaces the test strip substantially entirely out of the container through the container opening;

an actuator located on the housing, which actuator comprises a push button mechanism; and

a moveable mechanism that connects the moveable body to ~~an~~ the actuator ~~located on the housing~~;

wherein,: (a) when the push button mechanism of the actuator is ~~actuated~~ pushed, the moveable mechanism drives the moveable body ~~into engagement with the test strip and displaces it out of the container~~ to the first position; and (b) when the push button mechanism of the actuator is pushed again, the moveable mechanism drives the moveable body to the second position; and

wherein the moveable body cycles back and forth upon repeated pushing of the push button mechanism of the actuator.

2. (Currently Amended) The meter strip dispensing assembly of claim 1, wherein the container is further comprised of:

a vial; and

a cassette positioned within the vial in which the test strips reside.

3. (Currently Amended) The meter strip dispensing assembly of claim 2, wherein the cassette has a top surface, is substantially open on a bottom surface, has sidewalls extending downward from the top surface, and has apertures provided on opposing sidewalls.

4. (Currently Amended) The meter strip dispensing assembly of claim ~~2~~ 3, further comprised of a lift apparatus ~~situated within the cassette~~, the lift apparatus comprised of: a lift movably mounted over a vertically extending element having a top end and a bottom end, the bottom end resting on the vial bottom; and a biasing element situated over the vertically extending element, the lift resting against the biasing element which biases the lift towards the top end of the vertically extending element~~,~~; wherein at least a portion of the lift is positioned within the cassette and is provided with a surface upon which test strips can rest.

5. (Currently Amended) The meter strip dispensing assembly of claim 4, wherein the cassette is provided with a vertically extending slot extending from substantially the bottom surface to substantially the top surface; wherein at least a part of the lift surface is situated within the cassette and the vertically extending element is positioned outside the cassette.

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6. (Currently Amended) The meter strip dispensing assembly of claim 1, wherein the movable mechanism is comprised of at least one lever engaged at a first end to the actuator and at a second end to the movable body.

7. (Currently Amended) The meter strip dispensing assembly of claim 4, wherein the movable mechanism is comprised of at least one lever engaged at a first end to the actuator and at a second end to the movable body, and the movable body is positioned to move in and out of one of the apertures in the cassette.

8. (Currently amended) The meter strip dispensing assembly of claim 5, wherein the movable mechanism is comprised of at least one lever engaged at a first end to the actuator and at a second end to the movable body, and the movable body is positioned to move in and out of one of the apertures in the cassette.

9. (Currently Amended) The meter strip dispensing assembly of claim 3, further comprised of a lift apparatus ~~situated within the cassette~~, the lift apparatus comprised of: a lift provided with a threaded aperture mounted over a vertically extending threaded element having a

top end and a bottom end, the vertically extending threaded element extending into an aperture in a bottom of the vial ~~bottom~~; means for rotating the vertically extending threaded element, wherein the lift moves upward in response to a rotation of the vertically extending threaded element, wherein at least a portion of the lift is positioned within the cassette and is provided with a surface upon which test strips can rest.

10. (Currently Amended) The meter strip dispensing assembly of claim 9, wherein the cassette is provided with a vertically extending slot extending from substantially the bottom surface to substantially the top surface; wherein at least a part of the lift surface is situated within the cassette and the vertically extending threaded element is positioned outside the cassette.

11. (Currently Amended) The meter strip dispensing assembly of claim ~~1~~ 3, wherein the cassette is enclosed within the vial, the vial being provided with a movable lip seal located in substantially the same plan as ~~the~~ at least one aperture in the cassette, the lip seal ~~bing~~ being provided on a sidewall of the vial ~~sidewall~~ and is openable in response to a force applied from inside the vial when a test strip is moved against the seal.

12. (Currently Amended) The meter strip dispensing assembly of claim 11, wherein the lip seal is formed by blending an effective amount of elastomer with ~~the~~ a carrier thermoplastic material used to construct the vial.

13. (Currently Amended) The meter strip dispensing assembly of claim 2, wherein the vial is further comprised of a desiccant plastic.

46. (New) The meter strip dispensing assembly of claim 4, wherein the lift apparatus is situated entirely within the cassette.

47. (New) The meter strip dispensing assembly of claim 9, wherein the lift apparatus is situated entirely within the cassette.